

## Memorandum

Date: April 23, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow



Subject: Outcomes/Actions from the April 15 meeting

The following are outcomes and actions identified at the April 15 Policy Group meeting. The topics below do not represent the totality of issues discussed on April 15. They represent only those discussions from which an action was agreed on.

### Tribal Involvement in CALFED

*Action:* CALFED will do a mailing to the Chairs of all California Indian tribes inviting their participation in CALFED, and possibly their membership in Policy Group. Alf Brandt volunteered to draft the letter.

Felicia Marcus suggested a training for the Policy Group working with tribal governments, and offered the EPA team of trainers. Karen Barnett of the Forest Service offered to assist in this effort.

*Lead:* Alf Brandt, DOI letter to tribes, to go out under Lester's signature  
Felicia Marcus will follow up on training possibility

Chairperson Nichols requested a report back on this matter at the May Policy Group meeting.

### B(2)

*Note: Discussions at this meeting of b(2) and any agreements reached regarding water acquisition and/or state make-up may be superseded by subsequent events, including the TRO issued on Friday, April 16 and subsequent discussions regarding the effects of non-implementation of b(2) AFRP actions.*

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#### CALFED Agencies

**California**  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

**Outcome:**

DOI is working on a plan to buy water to make up c. 90 TAF for the State, or about 72 TAF at the pumps.

Tom Hannigan stated that the State is willing to operate with this shortfall this year only, but wanted to look at the possibility of making up the water by January 2000.

Kirk Rodgers requested CALFED monies-from 1998 water acquisitions set-aside-to buy water for this make-up. While the Policy Group expressed concurrence with using Bay Delta Act dollars for this make-up, they also acknowledged that this issue must again go before the Ecosystem Roundtable for consideration.

Mary Nichols wanted to document that this decision is for this year only, and represents State make-up only.

Ryan Broddrick pointed out the importance of doing make-up prior to the fall, to avoid risk to spring run salmon. Kirk Rodgers acknowledged this issue, and that state is at risk.

**VAMP**

Note: *VAMP actions, as described at this meeting may be affected/superseded by Judge Wainger's TRO.*

Lester Snow discussed the status of the six-point commitment made to Assemblyman Machado regarding VAMP implementation and potential South Delta Impacts. VAMP flows have begun under a one-year agreement, and the operations modeling has shown no potential for impacts to the South Delta this year. It is clear, however, that decisions on a South Delta strategy (especially barriers) and a comprehensive water management strategy for the San Joaquin River Group are necessary to maintain regional support for VAMP.

**EIR/S Public Hearing Schedule**

**Outcome:** CALFED will ensure that key stakeholders have reviewed the list of public hearing locations.

*Lead:* Valerie Holcomb

**South Delta Improvements**

**Outcome:** Lester Snow committed to convening a meeting or meetings with the fisheries heads and operations heads-Mike Spear, Ryan Broddrick, Jim Lecky, Tom Hannigan and Kirk Rodgers-over the next few weeks and submitting a recommendation to the Policy Group at the May meeting.

**Outcome:** General Policy Group support of a comprehensive project in South Delta.

**Outcome:** Mike Spear requested modeling of a new diversion location related to in-Delta storage, to consider whether such a change could resolve some of the water quality and fisheries conflicts. Stein Buer agreed to take the South Delta team for review and scoping.

*Lead:* Stein Buer

#### **Finance**

**Outcome:** Policy Group requested for each program and identification of the benefits/beneficiaries and proposals for options for cost share, and a briefing on stakeholder positions on each.

*Lead:* Kate Hansel

#### **Description of the Preferred Alternative**

Lester Snow asked for agreement on the legal description of the Preferred Alternative. Lester was not seeking approval today on the exact language, but rather an indication that CALFED is on the right path.

**Outcome:** Policy Group offered revisions to some of the language in the description:

Jim Lecky offered revised language on the proposal for a Hood diversion.

David Cottingham suggested adding "groundwater and surface" to storage and explicitly referencing the Water Management Strategy.

Other comments included:

Mike Spear emphasized the need to highlight the role of the Environmental Water Account.

Felicia Marcus emphasized erring on the side of cross-referencing throughout the document.

Mary Nichols suggested that goals should be articulated in quantified manner where possible.

**Action:** State and federal leads will coordinate comments to CALFED on the description. Comments are due the week of April 19. Language will be finalized at the April 27 Small Group meeting.

*Leads:* Alf Brandt, DOI

Patrick Wright, Resources Agency

#### **Governance**

**Outcome:** General concurrence on the concept of an interim structure, with proposed

interim structure remaining the current CALFED structure. Details regarding decision-making and operating rules remain to be worked out, as well as language for a possible revised MOU. Policy Group did acknowledge a role for BDAC and its work groups but did not discuss their roles in any depth.

Comments included:

Kirk Rodgers stated that the cross-cut budget has to be "welded together" all the way through.

Mary Nichols remarked that she sees the governance structure evolving even without major structural change. The Policy Group becomes more like a Board of Directors, with BDAC in an advisory role.

#### **404 Compliance Strategy**

Rick Soehren provided a progress report on the emerging 404 Compliance Strategy. He requested using the Small Group as a stand-in for the Policy Group over the next several weeks for feedback on the 404 Compliance Strategy. He also requested permission to convene a stakeholder meeting in mid-May to review the draft strategy.

**Outcome:** Policy Group agreed to both requests.